

W.C. Barleigh Papers

Dewitt

7

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JOHN (HENRY?) DEWITT 1793 - 1890.

John Dewitt b. April 3, 1793, according to his son T. O. and as shown on his gravestone. A son wrote that he had been born in Georgia. A search was made of the records of that State in the Library of Congress without result. Later there was found to be, or to have been, a town name Georgia in Northern Vermont. No record was found but might exist. The County divisions have also changed. A grandson told me he recalled (his memory may have been faulty due to age) that John had been born in the United States. Another descendant stated it had been New York State.

John's mother was Phoebe de Rose (Rose, Res, Roosa, Rous, Roos?) Her maiden name according to family accounts was Pierce (Peerse, Perse, Persen?) (Could her mother-in-law have been named Pierce?) Her date of birth is not known.

The name of John's father is not entirely definite. I have found no statement of it among descendants. It is believed to have been John. There is a record in the archives of the Province of New Brunswick of the settlement of the estate of John Dewitt, deceased, Phoebe (sic) DeWitt administratrix. The administration bond was filed November 6, 1801. There is little doubt that the John in question was the husband of Phoebe de Rose (DeWitt). The date of death not recorded, was prior to November 6, 1801.

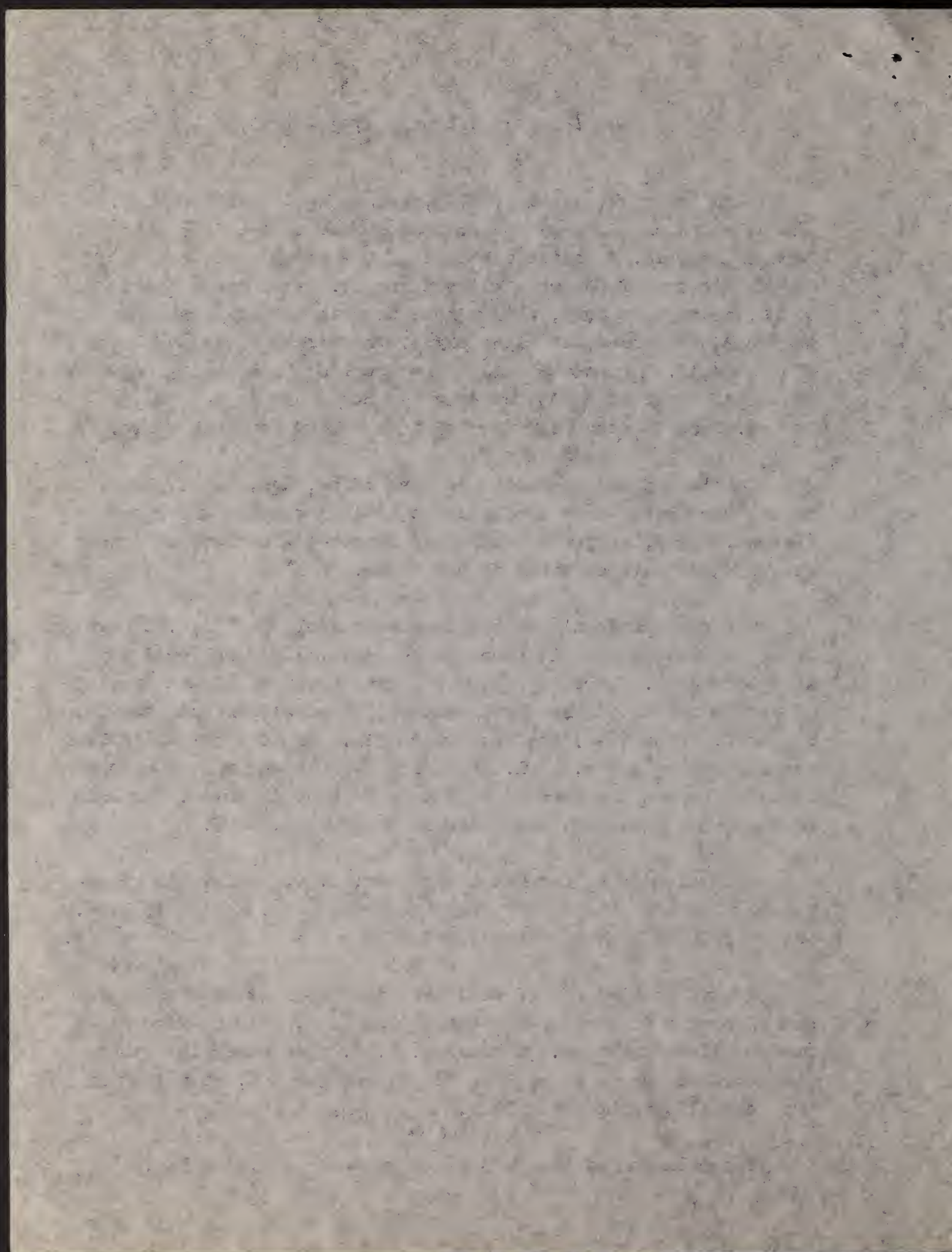
According to an account of the Rev. T. O. DeWitt his grandfather died when his father was three years old, making it 1796. There is doubt that the settlement of the estate took five years.

See below

I have puzzled a good deal over the apparent contradiction and offer the following possible explanation, arising from misreading of handwriting. If the Rev. T. O. used numerals rather than words then his 8 may have been taken for a 3, resulting in the year 1796 rather than 1801.

Correct date

The children of Phoebe and her husband were: Abraham,



Thomas, Mary G, Gertrude, Charles, Luke and John. The order is not known, except that John n. April 3, 1793 was the youngest.

There having been seven children his father must have married at the latest by 1786, and probably earlier. Allowing age 20 for marriage the father may have been born not later than 1766. A fairly wide margin is possible, although a likely period would be about 1760 - 65.

Relationships which are of importance in any search are references to tow uncles. The account written by the very literate son, The Rev. Y. O. is about a journey which John made in the year 1820 to upper Canada (Ontario) "to see about land his uncle Henry had claim to". It stated in part.

This journey began & ended in Halifax N.S.
At a place called Bay Canty he fell in with a colored man named Carter. The man Carter directed him to the home of L. E. DeWitt his uncle where he spent the night. Next he went to Utica and on to Albany, and from there to a place called Catskill, where he located his uncle Henry. He remained there seven days with his uncle.

The main indications are:

- 1.- Phoebe de Rose married a DeWitt, presumably named John, who died in 1801 in New Brunswick.
- 2.- John, was probably born not later than 1766 and perhaps earlier.
- 3.- There were seven children of whom John 2, b. 1793 was the youngest. The names of the others are given above.
- 4.- John 1, had brothers, L. E. a loyalist in Ontario and Henry in Castkill, N.Y.

(The census of 1790 shows a Henry DeWitt, head of household living at Rochester, Ulster Co. The Census would indicate he was born prior to 1765. At Catskill there is no Henry listed. However in the census of 1801 for Catskill, Green Co. a Henry DeWitt (over 45 years) was listed. There was a Henry in Catskill in 1820. He died, presumably in 1832 since his will was probated on June 5 of that year. This Henry had married in Nov. 14, 1796 Catherine Du Mont, widow of Teunis Von den Berg.)

- 5.- Family accounts indicate that John and Phoebe came from the DeWitts of the Hudson Valley.
(descendants of Tjerck Claessen DeWitt?)

There are some bits of information of ancillary interest which might be helpful.

The DeWitts in New Brunswick were United Empire Loyalists. The majority of Loyalists along the eastern seaboard went to Canada by ship. The main migration was in 1783. Of them the largest part went first to Nova Scotia or New Brunswick (Halifax and St. John) There were several DeWitts who from St. John went up river and settled along the Oromocto where they were granted lands, and of which latter there is record. John 1, was in this area and John 2, grew up there. (The given names of the DeWitts there are like those of the Hudson Valley, but many being Biblical is not very indicative).

A side note may be included here. In the August 1932 issue of the "Loyalist Gazette", an by Capt. Horace Hume Van Wart stated in part: "The company of Loyalists led by Peter Van Alstine appear to be the only group who sailed directly from New York City to upper Canada. His company was mostly from the counties of Rockland, Orange and Ulster on the west side of the Hudson River and Westchester, Dutchess and Columbia on the east side".

Uncle L. E. DeWitt could conceivably been part of the Van Alstine Company, however see below for routes overland. It is appears more likely he went north west from the Hudson Valley. (Repetition of family names raises question as to whether he was Luke of Luke Emery).

Bay Canty is west of Kingston, Ontario. It caused me some trouble until I found the proper name of Bay Quinté. The Rev. T. O. having heard the story from his father wrote it in English as it sounded, and not as it is in French. The area was Loyalist as shown by the following:

Kirkham in "Research in American Genealogy" (pp 333-312) states in part.

With exception of Adolphustown most Loyalists in the settlement around the Bay of Quinté came overland.

The most popular route was up the Hudson River to Fort Stanwix (sp?) (Rome N.Y.) Wood Creek (portage) to Lake Oneida, Oswego thence to Kingston (Ontario).

In 1783 Sir Frederick Haldemand, the Governor of the Province of Quebec instructed the Surveyor General to proceed to Western Canada and to lay out a range of townships on the Bay of Quinté west of Kingston.

Further he stated:

"From the foregoing the original settlers about the Bay of Quinté were, in the main, those who migrated from the inland portions of the United States, and who reached their place of settlement by inland route".

It appears likely that L. E. DeWitt, resident of Bay Quinté in 1820 was from the Hudson Valley group at DeWitts, and by extention, his brother John 1, another brother Henry remained, and in Castkill in 1820.

To return to John 1, and his family. They could have gone to the Maritime Provinces by sea. If one assumes that the youngest child was born in Northern Vermont in 1793 and the family was living there about they could have gone overland. However travel from Northern Vermont to New Brunswick would be difficult in those days. There is further doubt on this score in as much as 1793 is 10 years later than the main Loyalist migration.

The above was written while I lived in Washington about 1963. Since that time there has been some further search. I asked a geneologist of the Hudson Valley to try to find a family with childre born.

(5)

about 1750-1770 which contained sons which included L. E. & Henry DeWitt, (and possibly John). He sent me such a family which included a Levi and a Henry. They were sons of Andries DeWitt & Maria de Puy. Subsequently he sent another group (copy attached) which contains a Lucas, and a Henry and a John. There were sons of Evert DeWitt and Gertrude Persen.

If it is possible to find in the Bay Quinté area a Lucas (who was L. E.?) and who married Elizabeth Van Loon, or a Levi - who was L. E. it may be possible to learn their place of birth, and date of birth, and search can go on from there. They would have been alive in 1820 when visited by their nephew John.

If by great good fortune there is information on the name of Lucas's father or Levi's father then the rest is easy as the gap in all the records is about 1755-1761. Prior records go to 1650.

One is inclined to favor Evert, who married Gertrude Persen, as it will be recalled there was a hint that the mother in law of Phoebe DeWitt was named Pierce.

1870-1871
The first year of the war was a year of great suffering and distress. The people were poor and the government was weak. The war was a great disaster for the country.

The second year of the war was a year of great suffering and distress. The people were poor and the government was weak. The war was a great disaster for the country.

The third year of the war was a year of great suffering and distress. The people were poor and the government was weak. The war was a great disaster for the country.

The fourth year of the war was a year of great suffering and distress. The people were poor and the government was weak. The war was a great disaster for the country.

Evert DeWitt

m. Gertrude Persen

- 1.- Lucas bapt. Kaatsbaan, Oct. 2, 1756 -
m. Sept. 1780 Elizabeth Van Loon.
daug. of Jacob Van Loon & Catharine
born March 4, 1756.
- 2.- Abraham, bapt. Kaatsbaan Dec. 26, 1757 -
d. in infancy.
- 3.- John
- 4.- Henry, born March 13, 1761
m. Catherine DuMond,
daug. of David DuMond & Elizabeth Van Orden -
bapt. March 10 or April 20, Kaatsbaan
1767 - d. Feb. 14, 1855.
He died Apr. 13, 1830.
- 5.- Abraham - bapt. Catskill Jan. 22, 1763.
- 6.- Catharine, bapt. Kaatsbaan Jan. 25, 1765.
- 7.- Jacob, bapt. Corsachie Oct. 22, 1768.
- 8.- Petrus, born March 24, 1770

Debora Persen, bapt. Catskill Feb. 6, 1737-8
m. Lucas DeWitt of Oaks Hill
Greene Co., N.Y.

1. The first part of the report is devoted to a general survey of the situation in the country.

2. The second part of the report is devoted to a detailed examination of the various branches of the economy.

3. The third part of the report is devoted to a study of the social conditions of the population.

4. The fourth part of the report is devoted to a study of the political situation.

5. The fifth part of the report is devoted to a study of the international relations of the country.

6. The sixth part of the report is devoted to a study of the cultural life of the country.

7. The seventh part of the report is devoted to a study of the scientific and technical progress of the country.

8. The eighth part of the report is devoted to a study of the military situation.

9. The ninth part of the report is devoted to a study of the administrative organization of the country.

10. The tenth part of the report is devoted to a study of the financial situation of the country.

RR #1 Kingston, Ontario DEWITT
January 5, 1974 Adolphus

Dear Dr Burleigh,

As we discussed today in our telephone conversation I am enclosing the account given me by Lester Mallory of Guadalajara, Mexico. Mallory himself was born in the merittimes and still has many relatives there. He was taken to the U.S. as a child & spent his working years in the United States Foreign Service. He is an amateur archeologist of some reknown and now teaches part time at the University in Guadalajara, He would be most grateful for suggestions or information about the elusive L.E. DeWitt. Your letter could be sent to our address above & my daughter will forward it by air mail, or else

c/o Dr A.E. Ross
Bernardo de Balbuena 858-10
Guadalajara, Jalisco
MEXICO

With best regards and thanks for your kind cooperation

Sincerely

Arthur Ross

